

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT NO. SUBJECT Construction of Aluminum Boats in the Danube Hajogyar in
Budapest / Export to USSRPLACE ACQUIRED
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1. "The Buda naval shipyard, Danube Hajogyar, in Budapest began building aluminum boats last spring [1954]. It is a large shipyard which formerly belonged to the Austrian Danube Dampschiffer Company and which was therefore seized by the Soviets as 'German property'. After having been used by the Soviets for a few years, it was sold to Hungary. Under the Hungarian People's Republic it was considerably enlarged.
2. "In May 1954, the first aluminum boat was finished in this shipyard. Only the hull was made of aluminum because it withstands fresh water. The hull is three times as light as iron hulls, and engineers claim that this will produce much greater stability and much higher speed. The first aluminum ship is a sailboat. There is also talk of making aluminum ships for the sea, but specialists are opposed to this idea because aluminum cannot withstand sea water like it can fresh water.
3. "At present there are three aluminum river boats under construction at this shipyard which are to be exported to the USSR and the Satellite countries. At the same time construction has been begun on several fast motorboats which will be 15 to 20 meters long and will be equipped with two powerful motors. These are also allegedly for export. If these models are a success, mass production of aluminum boats will be started next year [1955]."

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